

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 08821 291108Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 IO-14 /109 W  
----- 025009

R 290952Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0277

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY (BY POUCH)

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ET PINS PINT

SUBJECT: COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (C.I.): CHAIRMAN STATES GROUND  
RULES

REF: ADDIS 8450

PROFESSOR MESFIN WOLDE MARIAM, CHAIRMAN OF C.I., AND HIS DEPUTY,  
MAJ. MERSHA ADMASU, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 27. THEY STATED  
GROUND RULES UNDER WHICH C.I. WOULD INVESTIGATE CASES OF ALLEGED  
MALFEASANCE OR CORRUPTION BY PROMINENT ETHIOPIANS. MESFIN MADE  
FOLLOWING NOTEWORTHY POINTS, ACCORDING ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF JULY 27:

1. C.I. WOULD INITIATE HEARINGS WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

2. IT WILL BE GUIDED BY STIPULATIONS C.I. ESTABLISHMENT

PROCLAMATION AND CURRENT CONSTITUTION, EVEN IF NEW REVISED CONSTI-  
TUTION COMES INTO FORCE DURING ITS LABORS. COMMENT: ACCORDING  
ART. 31(D) OF (CURRENT) CONSTITUTION, EMPEROR AUTHORIZED MAKE GRANTS  
FROM "ABANDONED PROPERTIES" AND PROPERTIES IN ESCHEAT AS RECOMPENSE  
FOR SERVICES TO CROWN. THIS STIPULATION SHOULD OPERATE TO PROTECT

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 08821 291108Z

MANY DEFENDANTS AGAINST CHARGES OF ILLEGAL EXPROPRIATION AND EX-

PLOITATION OF LAND IN THAT MANY DEFENDANTS EXPECTED BE ABLE SHOW THAT THEY ACQUIRED LAND LEGALLY FROM THE CROWN. END COMMENT.

3. C.I. EXPECTS SIT UP TO TWO YEARS; LESS IF PROVIDED WITH BUDGET THAT WILL PERMIT HIRING OF STAFF SUFFICIENT TO EXPEDITE CASE PROCESSING. ITS PROCEEDINGS TO BE "MOSTLY" OPEN TO PUBLIC.

4. C.I. WILL INQUIRE INTO ALLEGATIONS/CHARGES OF UNLAWFUL ENRICHMENT AND ABUSE OF AUTHORITY. IT WILL SUBMIT ITS FINDINGS TO DULY ASSIGNED COURTS OF LAW WHICH WILL TRY THE CASES. THE C.I. WILL THUS NOT RPT NOT PASS JUDGMENT UPON ANY DEFENDANT.

5. THE PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING THE C.I. AND WHICH WILL GUIDE ITS PROCEEDINGS APPEARED IN THE JUNE 15 NEGARIT GAZETA. UNDER IT, C.I. TO IDENTIFY ANY IEG OFFICIALS WHO HAVE UNLAWFULLY ENRICHED THEMSELVES OR HAVE UNLAWFULLY CAUSED JUDICIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE HARM. COMMISSION MAY INTER ALIA ISSUE SUMMONS; EXAMINE WITNESSES UNDER OATH; REQUIRE DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL/PROPERTY STATUS, INCOME TAX PAYMENTS, ETC., INSTRUCT THE POLICE; AND FORMULATE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION ON ITS FINDINGS. IT MAY ACT ON ITS OWN OR OTHERS' INITIATIVE AND MAY ORDER CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS TO BE INITIATED IN SPECIAL DIVISIONS OF THE SUPREME AND HIGH COURTS. IT WILL CONSIDER "ILLEGAL ENRICHMENT" - THE AMASSING OF WEALTH DISPROPORTIONATE TO INCOME WITHOUT ADEQUATE EXPLANATION, JUSTIFICATION OR PROOF. PROPERTY NOT DECLARED TO THE COMMISSION SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ABANDONED TO THE STATE. WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CONSTITUTION, CORRUPTION, LAND NATIONALIZATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 29 JUL 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Reference:** ADDIS 8450  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (C.I.): CHAIRMAN STATES GROUND RULES  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, ET, (MESFIN WOLDE MARIAM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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